

AUGUST McColgan, one of the first 15 inductees into the Army Public Affairs Hall of Fame, was recently recognized for decades of public affairs service, dating from the Eisenhower era.

McColgan began his public affairs career in 1952 while assigned to the Maryland Military District in Baltimore. He retired from the Army in 1963 as a lieutenant colonel working in public affairs at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.



McColgan: Among first PAO Hall of Fame inductees.

He retired from government service in 1985 as public affairs officer for the Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

He handled some thorny issues during his career, among them a program to gain public acceptance of experimental missile flights in the desert Southwest. He also worked to help the Army regain its cred-

ibility after thousands of sheep died in the sagebrush-rangeland near Dugway Proving Ground, Utah.

His service to the nation actually began in 1935, when he joined the Maryland Army National Guard. When his unit was activated in 1941, he helped train soldiers of the 102nd Infantry Division for war.

He deployed to the European Theater in March 1944 and became commander of Company G, 26th Inf. Regiment, part of the 1st Inf. Div.

From December 1944 to January 1945, Co. G was on the line against German forces during the Battle of the Bulge. During the end of January McColgan was wounded and returned to the United States to recuperate.

In 1948 he was among U.S. troops occupying Germany, and in 1952 he returned home to serve with the Maryland District in Baltimore, getting an introduction into military public affairs.

Later, he was briefly in Korea before joining the public information staff at Army Forces Far East in Japan. An assignment with the Army's Office of the Chief of Information at the Pentagon followed.

McColgan got his introduction to Army weapon systems testing and evaluation in 1959 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, then moved on to a PAO assignment at White Sands Missile Range.

"I suspect that we developed and implemented the Army's greatest public affairs program there," he said. It was about getting people to accept the fact that the Army would fly missiles over their property. "We gained

unanimous acceptance from communities in four states.

"We were successful," McColgan said, "because we told the truth and provided complete information. We held nothing back. There was no doubletalk, no innuendo."

When 6,000 sheep died in March 1968 near Dugway Proving Ground, residents of nearby communities blamed Army testing. The Army was accused of stonewalling citizens and state officials while it conducted investigations.

That incident embarrassed the Army. But McColgan persuaded TECOM to let him take over the PAO mission at Dugway Proving Ground. McColgan conducted regular briefings and invited members of the media to come and see for themselves what the Army was doing. His openness and honesty earned him great respect and trust. And McColgan was able to turn a nightmare of a situation into a manageable episode that would not forever mar the Army's image in Utah.

"The mentor I had in the early days used to say: 'Mac, trying to cover up a bad story is like tying a skunk to a flagpole,'" McColgan recalled. "The longer you leave it there, the more it's going to stink." — *Mike Cast, U.S. Army Developmental Test Command Public Affairs Office*

CW2 James Lofland and **1SGT William Wright** from the 1st Special Forces Group at Fort Lewis, Wash., experienced a little of what it takes to produce a television program recently when they lent their expertise to the CBS-TV production "Survivor" on Pulau Tiga Island in the South China Sea.

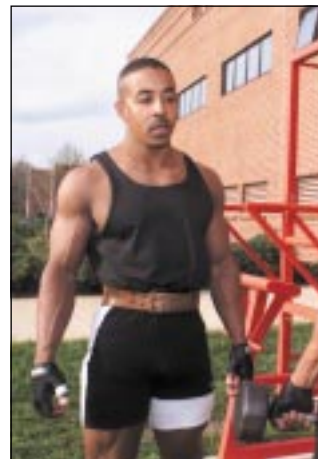
In the series, 16 people are left on Pulau Tiga with limited resources. Every three days cast members vote to have one participant leave the island. The last person left will win \$1 million.

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command discovered this opportunity to showcase soldiers while exploring advertising options with the "Survivor" promoters.

Command spokesman COL Kevin Kelley said: "We are constantly looking for opportunities to highlight the training, education and adventure available to young people who serve in the Army. 'Survivor' is an entertaining forum that emphasizes the skills and determination we're looking for in soldiers today."

Special forces soldiers were selected because of their expertise in jungle survival,

Bodybuilders: Ronnie (left) watches Rennie work out.



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Kelley added. Lofland and Wright trained cast members and provided technical expertise for one of the show's challenge missions. It included an obstacle course and leadership-reaction exercise. The show's executive producer, Mark Burnett, lauded the soldiers for "doing an outstanding job. The segment they support will be one of the best in the series," he said.



Wright and Lofland: Introducing themselves to "Survivor" participants.

The summer series has 13 episodes. — *MAJ Vic Harris, U.S. Army Recruiting Command*

IDENTICAL twins **MSG Ronnie Davis** and **SFC Rennie Davis**, both Army cooks and bodybuilders, were featured in May in a pictorial entitled "Military Muscle," in the national magazine *Muscle and Fitness*.

The 34-year-old brothers are both 16-year Army veterans who enlisted together and have been assigned together throughout their careers. Currently, they're assigned to the Pentagon, where Ronnie is the mess steward of the General Officers' Mess and Rennie is the purchasing agent for the Secretary of Defense's Mess.

The seventh and eighth of nine children, they've always been athletic, Ronnie said. Five years ago they began competing in bodybuilding competitions.

In last year's National Physique Committee Team Universe competition, Ronnie and Rennie finished 5th and 7th in their class, respectively. They'll compete in this year's Team Universe event in August in New York City.

The brothers said their training year is broken into two phases. There's the weight-gaining phase that makes up most of the year and is the time when they train three days a week, up to three hours each day, and the dieting phase nine weeks before a competition. That's when they train six days a week and strive to lose 10 to 12 pounds.

Self-trained, they use only multivitamins and protein and creatine supplements, along with a healthy diet, to build their bodies, Ronnie said.

"No question, when you look good, you feel good, and



that motivates you," he added. "You set higher goals." — *Army News Service*

AS a shipmaster for the Military Sealift Command, **George McCarthy** often transports cargo for the Military Traffic Management Command.

A 16-year veteran of the sea, McCarthy is master of the *Mount*

Baker, often hauling equipment and supplies for U.S. troops. A year ago, it was ammunition from the port of Koper, Slovenia, on the Adriatic Sea. More recently, he spent time training at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies, in Linthicum Heights, Md., to enhance his skills.

While attending the Automatic Radar Plotting Aids course, he piloted ships using simulators, maneuvering one huge vessel from the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi River. Meantime, the realistic radar plot indicated ships moving around him in all directions.

His feet may have been on the ground, but McCarthy said the simulated experience felt very real. "I was piloting a 63,000-ton ship into one of the busiest waterways in the United States."

The maritime institute is an arm of the International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots of the International Longshoremen's Association. The owners of American flag vessels, along with the MSC, send their masters and first, second and third mates to the school for training. Other MTMC partners also attend courses ranging from shipment and storage of small arms to force protection.

The training helps ensure that people tasked to deliver cargoes to U.S. military personnel around the world have the proper training to do so safely and efficiently. — *MTMC PAO*



McCarthy: Training for sea.

A 16-year veteran of the sea, McCarthy is master of the Mount Baker, often hauling equipment and supplies for U.S. troops.